

**New Mexico Science Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards  
Strands and Benchmarks**

**Kindergarten – 4th Grade**

**Strand II: Content of Science**

**Standard II (Life Science):** Understand the properties, structures, and processes of living things and the interdependence of living things and their environment.

**K-4 Benchmark I:** Know that living things have diverse forms, structures, functions, and habits.

**Grade            Performance Standard**

- K**      Identify major structures of common living organisms.  
Observe that differences exist among individual living organisms of the same kind.
- 1**      Know that living organisms have needs.  
Know that living organisms inhabit various environments and have various external features to help them satisfy their needs.  
Describe the differences and similarities among living organisms.  
Observe that living organisms have predictable but varied life cycles.
- 2**      Observe that diversity exists among individuals within a population.
- 3**      Know that an adaptation in physical structure or behavior can improve an organism's chance for survival.  
Observe that plants and animals have structures that serve different functions.  
Classify common animals according to their observable characteristics.
- 4**      Explain that different living organisms have distinctive structures and body systems that serve specific functions.  
Know that humans and other living things have senses to help them detect stimuli, and that sensations and stimuli influence the behavior of organisms.

**K-4 Benchmark II:** Know that living things have similarities and differences and that living things change over time.

**Grade            Performance Standard**

- K**      Observe and describe similarities and differences in the appearance and behavior of living organisms.
- 1**      Recognize the differences between mature and immature plants and animals.
- 2**      Explain that the stages of the life cycle are different for different animals.  
Observe how the environment influences some characteristics of some living things.
- 4**      Know that in any particular environment some kinds of plants and animals survive well, some survive less well, and others cannot survive at all.  
Describe how some living organisms have developed characteristics from generation to generation to improve chances of survival.